

ABSTRACT

According to the present invention, when an image data currently being received is switched over to the data from another image information device, the best picture quality is provided without stopping the image up to the next I frame even when the switching request is given at the middle of I frame. The apparatus of the invention comprises a clock processing unit 103 for generating a current time corrected according to an information of a time received from a system controller 107 via a network 101, a transmitting/receiving processing unit 102 for transmitting and receiving data and control signal to and from the network, a time designation processing unit 104 for setting the designation time received from the system controller via the network, and a designation time detection processing unit 105 for comparing the preset designation time with the current time, and when the designation time agrees with the current time, the received data is switched over, and the switching is synchronized with the next I frame.